

placing the specimen into a container excluding the addition of any degradation-inhibiting agents, wherein the face coming into contact with the specimen is made of or coated with a material,

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cont* wherein said material inhibits the activation of a substance, which substance if not activated, cannot degrade the mammalian natriuretic peptides and is selected from the group consisting of silicone and plastics, and

wherein said specimen does not contain aprotinin.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.